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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

TETSURO MOTOYAMA, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: PRICE, NATHAN E

SERIAL NO: 10/684,434

:

FILED: OCTOBER 15, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 2194

FOR: REMOTE SYSTEM USAGE
MONITORING WITH FLEXIBLE
PACKAGING OF DATA

:

APPEAL BRIEF

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants appeal the outstanding Final Rejection of April 10, 2007. This Appeal Brief is in response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief of October 9, 2007.

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in the present application is the assignee of the present application, Ricoh Company, Ltd., having a place of business at 3-6, Nakamagome 1-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo, 143-8555 Japan.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant, Appellants' legal representative, and the assignee are not aware of any other interferences, judicial proceedings, or related appeals which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25, 29, and 32-44 are pending in this application. Each of those claims is being appealed.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 10-12, 14, 15, 18-20, 22, 23, 26-28, 30, and 31 were canceled.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendment was filed subsequent to the Final Rejection of April 10, 2007. A request for reconsideration was filed on May 22, 2007, which did not amend any of the claims.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claimed inventions are directed to a system, a method, and a computer program product that can all operate to monitor the usage of an interface of an image forming apparatus, the interface including a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, and that can communicate monitored data.

According to features recited in the claims, a monitoring unit monitors the selecting of operations on an operation panel by a user, generates a log of that monitored data, and

communicates data based on that log of the monitored data. With the claimed structures and operations, which operations a user selects on an operation panel of an image forming device can be monitored and then logged. Such an operation allows monitoring of exactly how a user utilizes an operation panel of an image forming device, i.e., what buttons and in what order the buttons on an image forming apparatus operation panel are pressed by a user is monitored. With such monitored data it can then be evaluated and determined how a user utilizes an operation panel of an image forming device, so that the operation panel can then be improved.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1, and with reference to Figure 11 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, is directed to an image forming device including an operation panel 700 including a plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 to be selected by a user, (see also the present specification at page 19, line 1 et seq), and a clock unit (see the CTime function 1320 for example in Figure 13).

Further, in claim 1 a monitoring unit is configured to monitor data of selecting the plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 of the operation panel 700 by a user, and to generate a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats. (See for example the monitoring block 1200 in Figures 12A, 12B and the corresponding discussion in the present specification at page 20, line 17 et seq). Further, the multiple formats include at least one of a time-stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel. Figure 15B in the present specification shows a GetCurrentTime operation being performed in which a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel is generated. (See also the

discussion of the present specification at page 24, line 26 et seq). Further, the log of the monitored data can include a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel as shown in Figure 15A with the updateCommandUsage operation (and see the discussion in the present specification at page 24, lines 13-25, and particularly at lines 23-25).

Further, in claim 1 a communication unit is configured to receive the log of the monitored data and to communicate data based on the log in the monitored data in one of the formats. See for example the sending block 1600 in Figures 12A, 12B and Figure 17 in the present specification, and the corresponding discussion in the present specification, at page 27, line 26 et seq.

Independent Claim 9

Claim 9, and with reference to Figure 11 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, is directed to an image forming device including an operation panel 700 including a plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 to be selected by a user (see also the present specification at page 19, line 1 et seq), and a clock unit (see the CTime function 1320 for example in Figure 13).

Further, in claim 9 a monitoring means monitors data of selecting the plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 of the operation panel 700 by a user, and generates a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats. (The monitoring block 1200 in Figures 12A, 12B corresponds to the “monitoring means”, and see the corresponding discussion in the present specification at page 20, line 17 et seq). Further, the multiple formats include at least one of a time-stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel. Figure 15B in the

present specification shows a GetCurrentTime operation being performed in which a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel is generated. (See also the discussion of the present specification at page 24, line 26 et seq). Further, the log of the monitored data can include a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel as shown in Figure 15A with the updateCommandUsage operation (and see the discussion in the present specification at page 24, lines 13-25, and particularly at lines 23-25).

Further, in claim 9 a communication means receives the log of the monitored data and to communicate data based on the log in the monitored data in one of the formats. The sending block 1600 in Figures 12A, 12B and Figure 17 in the present specification, corresponds to the “communication means”, and see the discussion in the present specification at page 27, line 26 et seq.

Independent Claim 17

Claim 17, and with reference to Figure 11 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, is directed to a method of monitoring usage of an image forming device including an operation panel 700 including a plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 to be selected by a user. (See also the present specification at page 19, line 1 et seq).

Further, in claim 17 a monitoring operation monitors data of selecting the plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 of the operation panel 700 by a user, and to generate a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats. (See for example the monitoring block 1200 in Figures 12A, 12B and the corresponding discussion in the present specification at page 20, line 17 et seq). Further, the multiple formats include at least one of a time-stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the

plurality of operations of the operation panel. Figure 15B in the present specification shows a GetcurrentTime operation being performed in which a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel is generated. (See also the discussion of the present specification at page 24, line 26 et seq). Further, the log of the monitored data can include a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel as shown in Figure 15A with the updateCommandUsage operation, (and see the discussion in the present specification at page 24, lines 13-25, and particularly at lines 23-25).

Further, in claim 17 the log of the monitored data is received and data based on the log in the monitored data in one of the formats is communicated. See the sending block 1600 in Figures 12A, 12B and Figure 17 in the present specification, and see the discussion in the present specification, at page 27, line 26 et seq.

Independent Claim 25

Claim 25 is directed to a computer storage medium with an embedded computer program code mechanism for causing a computer to monitor a user's usage of an operation panel, and with reference to Figure 11 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, the image forming device includes an operation panel 700 including a plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 to be selected by a user. (See also the present specification at page 19, line 1 et seq).

Further, in claim 25, a first computer code is configured to monitor data of selecting the plurality of operations 705, 710, 715 of the operation panel 700 by a user, and to generate a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats. (See for example the monitoring block 1200 in Figures 12A, 12B and the corresponding discussion in the present specification

at page 20, line 17 et seq). Further, the multiple formats include at least one of a time-stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel. Figure 15B in the present specification shows a GetCurrentTime operation being performed in which a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel is generated. (See also the discussion of the present specification at page 24, line 26 et seq). Further, the log of the monitored data can include a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel as shown in Figure 15A with the updateCommandUsage operation, (and see the discussion in the present specification at page 24, lines 13-25, and particularly at lines 23-25).

Further, in claim 25 a second computer code is configured to receive the log of the monitored data and to communicate data based on the log in the monitored data in one of the formats. See the sending block 1600 in Figures 12A, 12B and Figure 17 in the present specification, and the corresponding discussion in the present specification, at page 27, line 26 et seq.

Dependent Claims 33, 36, 39, and 42

As a further feature recited in dependent claims 33, 36, 39, and 42, a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to communicating the database in the log of the monitored data” can be set. That subject matter is noted in the present specification at Figure 16B and the corresponding discussion at page 26, line 30 et seq.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, 24, 29, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25, and 32-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,202,199 to Wygodny et al. (herein “Wygodny”) in view of U.S. patent 5,414,494 to Aikens et al. (herein “Aikens”).¹

Each of the above-noted grounds for rejection is being appealed.

VII. ARGUMENT

Claims 5, 8, 13, 16, 21, 24, 29, and 32 Are Definite Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The outstanding rejection indicates it is not clear what is meant by the phrase “exits operating the image forming device” for example in claim 5.² Applicants submit that language is clearly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art. Specifically, the claim language in question merely indicates the log of monitored data is sent when a user exits operating the image forming device. One example set forth in the present specification is that the user can click on or touch an exit function (discussed further below). Applicants respectfully submit it would be clear to one of ordinary skill in the art how a user could exit an image forming device, and that such would result in sending a log of monitoring data.

¹ The Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief of October 9, 2007 objected to the prior Appeal Brief as not listing claims 33-44 as involved in the Appeal. Appellant notes the statement for the rejection in the Final Rejection of April 10, 2007 on page 6, paragraph 6 also did not list those claims as rejected, which Appellant assumes was a typographical error. Claims 33-44 are now listed as rejected and on Appeal.

² Final Rejection of April 10, 2007, page 3, prenumbered paragraph 5.

The outstanding rejection also appears to indicate the specification does not clearly set forth such an operation. Applicants traverse that position. The specification in describing Figure 14 specifically states:

One operation is to send the monitored usage data by the sending block 520 after every time the user exits the target application 505. For example, if the target application is a software that the user is running, every time that the user clicks on or touches an exit function, the monitored and logged data is sent by the sending block 520.³

As also discussed in the present specification, the present invention is directed to monitoring the usage of a target application of an application unit by a user, and an application unit can be, for example, an image forming device and a target application may be the software running on the image forming device.⁴

From the above-discussed disclosures in the present specification, applicants respectfully submit it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the features such as in claim 5 refer to the user exiting operating an image forming device.

Applicants also submit it is clear that the phrase “operating the image forming device” would clearly have been understood to a way in which a user typically operations an image forming device, for example forming copies, performing a scanning, etc.

The Advisory Action of June 12, 2007 further states “[i]t is not clear if exiting operating a device is performed by input of an exit command or if it can include the user walking away, resulting in a period of non-usage (page 25 lines 19-21)”.

In reply to that grounds for rejection, applicants note the indicated disclosure of page 25, lines 19-21 in the present specification is directed to stopping the monitoring, whereas the features recited in the above-noted claims are directed to a communication function, preferred

³ Specification at page 23, lines 4-8.

⁴ See for example the specification at page 17, line 19 *et seq.*

for example by the sending block 1600. The specification at page 23, lines 4-8 as noted above clearly sets forth the a sending block 1600 sending the log of the monitored data when the user exists operating the image forming device.

Thereby, the above-noted claims are believed to be proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Each of claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25, 29, and 32-44 Patentably

Distinguishes Over Wygodny in view of Aikens.

Independent claim 1 positively recites:

a monitoring unit configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel by the user, and to generate a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats, *wherein the multiple formats include at least one of a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel[.]* [Emphasis added]

The other independent claims 9, 17, and 25 recite similar features.

According to features recited in the claims, a monitoring unit monitors the selecting of operations on an operation panel by a user, generates a log of that monitored data, and communicates data based on that log of the monitored data. With the claimed structures and operations, which operations a user selects on an operation panel of an image forming device can be monitored and then logged. Such an operation allows monitoring of exactly how a user utilizes an operation panel of an image forming device, i.e., what buttons and in what order the buttons on an image forming apparatus operation panel are pressed by a user is monitored. With such monitored data it can then be evaluated and determined how a user utilizes an operation panel of an image forming device, so that the operation panel can then be improved.

First, applicants note Wygodny is directed to a significantly different device than as claimed. Wygodny is directed to monitoring execution paths of a software system, which is referred to as a client (see for example the Abstract of Wygodny). Thus, Wygodny merely monitors how a software program is being executed. To achieve that result in Wygodny the system operates to debug a program by installing three components, referred to as a Bug Trapper agent, a trace control information (TCI) file, and a target application in client computer.

In contrast to Wygodny, the claims are directed to selecting operations on an operation panel of an image forming device selected by a user. Wygodny is not directed to any similar device. In that respect applicants submit the teachings in Wygodny are not at all even relevant to the claimed invention.

With respect to the above-noted feature of the “monitoring unit” the outstanding rejection cites Wygodny at column 5, lines 12-23; column 6, lines 3-11; column 19, lines 42-60; and column 20, lines 53-56.⁵

In reply to that grounds for rejection applicants submit those disclosures in Wygodny do not meet the claimed features. More specifically, none of the noted disclosures in Wygodny discloses the two specific formats of the log of the monitored data recited in the claims, namely a (1) first format that includes a time stamp including a time of selecting the plurality of operations of the operation panel, and (2) a second format including a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel. Wygodny simply does not disclose or suggest such features at any of the cited disclosures as now even discussed further.

⁵ Final Office Action of April 10, 2007, top of page 4.

At column 5, lines 12-23 Wygodny merely broadly discloses the Bug Trapper being provided in two modes, a remote mode and an online mode. However, the remote mode and the online mode in Wygodny do not correspond to the noted multiple formats. Specifically, Wygodny does not disclose the remote and online modes including (1) a time stamp including a time of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel or (2) a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel. Thereby, the disclosure of those two modes in Wygodny does not correspond to the claimed features.

At column 6, lines 3-11 Wygodny merely provides details of a TCI file and trace data. However, that disclosure also is not all directed to the different mode formats noted above.

At column 19, lines 42-60 Wygodny provides details of the online tracing, but Wygodny does not disclose or suggest such a format including either of the noted multiple formats above of (1) including at least one of a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel, or (2) including a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel.

Further, at noted column 20, lines 53-56 Wygodny merely discloses that a trace detailed pane 316 can show time stamps. Wygodny does not, however, disclose that feature is directed to one of multiple formats, and Wygodny does not disclose including such features in a log of monitored data. Thereby, that disclosure in Wygodny also does not correspond to the claimed features.

In such ways the basis for the rejection relying on Wygodny is traversed as Wygodny does not disclose or suggest the above-noted features of the multiple formats.

Moreover, the outstanding Office Action recognizes that Wygodny “fails to specifically teach monitoring selections of operations of an operation panel”, and to cure those deficiencies in Wygodny the outstanding rejection cites Aikens.⁶

In reply to that basis for the rejection applicants respectfully submit Aikens also does not disclose or suggest the claimed features, and thus does not cure the deficiencies in Wygodny. That is, Aikens also does not disclose or suggest monitoring selecting of operations on an operation panel of an image forming device by a user.

Aikens is directed to a method of automatic notification of selected remote devices in response to machine conditions detected by a machine monitoring element including display machine condition options for selection of predetermined machine conditions for automatic notification to remote stations.⁷ With respect to the above-noted claim limitation of monitoring selections of a user on an operation panel of an image forming device, the outstanding rejections cite Aikens at column 2, lines 25-40. That portion is merely the broad “Summary Of The Invention” section in Aikens, which simply does not indicate that Aikens disclose monitoring data of selection of a plurality of operations of an operation panel.

Aikens discloses detecting machine conditions for automatic notification to remote stations, but at no point does Aikens disclose or suggest monitoring what buttons a user presses on an operation panel of an image forming device. Thereby, Aikens clearly cannot cure the recognized deficiencies in Wygodny.

One further basis for maintaining the rejection with respect to the above-noted features is that “Aikens teaches monitoring interface buttons [col. 4 lines 15-26, 51-68]”.⁸

⁶Final Office Action of April 10, 2007, prenumbered paragraph 8 on page 4.

⁷ See Aikens in the Abstract.

⁸ Final Office Action of April 10, 2007, page 2, prenumbered paragraph 3.

Applicants traverse that further basis for the rejection. Specifically, at column 4, lines 15-26 Aikens merely indicates the standard use of an interface 36. In that portion Aikens does not disclose or suggest any monitoring of the selections therein by a user.

At column 4, lines 51-68 Aikens states:

Referring to FIG. 3, certain key machine operating events (such as current event data) which define the proper execution of the control system such as user interface buttons being set, changes in application software operating states, interlock switches opening and closing, notification of control or system faults, execution of key routines, etc., are input as they occur by the applications system software 150 under control of processor 196 to dynamic memory (RAM) 155.⁹

Applicants submit that disclosure in Aikens is also not directed to the claimed features. Aikens above discloses storing data of key machine operating events “such as user interface buttons being set”. However, Aikens does not indicate that such a setting corresponds to a user selecting a button. In fact it appears to be the opposite as the noted disclosure in Aikens is directed to software operations, and not to a user selections of operations on an operation panel. The outstanding rejection appears to be misunderstanding that disclosure in Aikens merely because Aikens refers to “user interface buttons”. Aikens notes the monitoring is directed to “key machine operating events”, none of which is directed to a user selecting operations on an operation panel. Thereby, applicants respectfully submit the outstanding rejection is misconstruing that noted disclosure in Aikens.

In view of the foregoing comments applicants respectfully submit each of independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, and the claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over Wygodny in view of Aikens.

⁹ See Aikens specifically, at column 4, lines 53-61.

Moreover, applicants respectfully submit the dependent claims recite additional features that distinguish over the applied art, and that have not been fully considered in the Office Action, as now discussed in further detail below.

Dependent Claims 33, 36, 39, and 42 Further Patentably Distinguish Over Wygodny In View of Aikens

Dependent claims 33, 36, 39, and 42 recite setting “a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to communicating the data based on the log of the monitored data”. Those features even further distinguish over Wygodny in view of Aikens.

With respect to that feature the outstanding Office Action cites Wygodny at column 6, lines 3-14; column 19, lines 17-22 and 55-60; and column 26, lines 30-40.¹⁰

In reply to that basis for the rejection applicants submit Wygodny does not disclose or suggest setting a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel prior to communicating the log of the monitored data.

At column 6, lines 3-14, Wygodny merely discloses the trace control information (TCI) file including instructions for a trace. At column 19, lines 17-22 and 54-60 Wygodny discloses writing trace data to a buffer and determining a size of each trace record. At column 26, lines 30-40 Wygodny disclose that the trace log file 122 contains information that reflects a time window ending with the writing of the log file.

In each instance noted above Wygodny does not disclose or even address the claim feature of setting a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to communicating the log of the monitored data. The outstanding Office Action has not pointed to any disclosure in Wygodny that meets such claim limitations.

¹⁰ Office Action of April 10, 2007, prenumbered paragraph 9.

Thereby, dependent claims 33, 36, 39, and 42 clearly further distinguish over the applied art.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For the above-noted reasons it is respectfully submitted that the above-noted rejections pending in the Final Office Action must be REVERSED.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. An image forming device comprising:
 - an operation panel of said image forming device, the operation panel comprising a plurality of operations to be selected by a user;
 - a clock unit;
 - a monitoring unit configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel by the user, and to generate a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats, wherein the multiple formats include at least one of a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel;
 - a communicating unit configured to receive the log of the monitored data, and to communicate data based on the log of the monitored data in one of the formats.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled).

5. An image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the communicating unit sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits operating the image forming device.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

8. An image forming device according to any one of claims 1 or 5, wherein the communicating unit communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

9. An image forming device comprising:

an operation panel of said image forming device, the operation panel for providing a plurality of operations to be selected by a user;

a clock unit;

monitoring means for monitoring data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel by the user, and for generating a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats, wherein the multiple formats include at least one of a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel;

communicating means for receiving the log of the monitored data, and for communicating data based on the log of the monitored data in the one of the formats.

Claims 10-12 (Canceled).

13. An image forming device according to claim 9, wherein the communicating means sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits operating the image forming device.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled).

16. An image forming device according to any one of claims 9 or 13, wherein the communicating means communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

17. A method of monitoring usage of an operation panel of an image forming device, the operation panel including a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, comprising the steps of:

monitoring data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel by the user;

generating a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats, wherein the multiple formats include at least one of a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel; and

receiving the log of the monitored data, and communicating data based on the log of the monitored data in the one of the formats

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Claims 18-20 (Canceled).

21. A method according to claim 17, wherein the communicating step sends the log of the monitored data when the user exits operating the image forming device.

Claims 22-23 (Canceled).

24. A method according to any one of claims 17 or 21, wherein the communicating step communicates the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

25. A computer program product comprising:

a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to monitor a user's usage of an operation panel of an image forming device, the operation panel comprising a plurality of operations to be selected by a user, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to monitor data of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel by the user, and configured to generate a log of the monitored data in one of multiple formats, wherein the multiple formats include at least one of a time stamp including a time of selecting of the plurality of operations of the operation panel or a frequency of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel;

a second computer code device configured to receive the log of the monitored data, and to communicate data based on the log of the monitored data in the one of the formats.

Claims 26-28 (Canceled).

29. A computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to send the log of the monitored data when the user exits operating the image forming device.

Claims 30-31 (Canceled).

32. A computer program product according to any one of claims 25 or 29, wherein the second computer code device is further configured to communicate the log of the monitored data by Internet mail.

33. An image forming device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a setting unit configured to set a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to the communicating unit communicating the data based on the log of the monitored data.

34. An image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the communicated data includes the elapsed time of a selection of an operation from a start of the monitoring.

35. An image forming device according to claim 1, wherein the log of the monitored data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel, and the communicated data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operations panel.

36. An image forming device according to claim 9, further comprising:
setting unit means for setting a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to the communicating means communicating the data based on the log of the monitored data.

37. An image forming device according to claim 9, wherein the communicated data includes the elapsed time of a selection of an operation from a start of the monitoring.

38. An image forming device according to claim 9, wherein the log of the monitored data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel, and the communicated data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operations panel.

39. A method according to claim 17, further comprising:
setting a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to communicating the data based on the log of the monitored data.

40. A method according to claim 17, wherein the communicated data includes the elapsed time of a selection of an operation from a start of the monitoring.

41. A method according to claim 17, wherein the log of the monitored data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel, and the communicated data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operations panel.

42. A computer program product according to claim 25, further comprising:
a third computer code device configured to set a number of sessions of utilizing the operation panel to be executed by the user prior to the second computer code device communicating the data based of the log of the monitored data.

43. A computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the communicated data includes the elapsed time of a selection of an operation from a start of the monitoring.

44. A computer program product according to claim 25, wherein the log of the monitored data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operation panel, and the communicated data includes the frequencies of selection of the plurality of operations of the operations panel.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

None.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.